

13 July 1953

Subject: Benno v. BRAITENBERG-ZENZENBERG

1. Benno v. BRAITENBERG-ZENZENBERG, born 29 August 1896 in Bolzano, Austrian citizen, Roman Catholic, married to Hilda Johanna SMITH, nee BLAUENROCK, born 2 September 1910 in Langow (Germany), settled in Salzburg, coming from Eisenstadt, on 20 March 1938. In Salzburg he first lived at Schurfirststrasse 1 until 4 June 1946. Next known addresses were Vienna XIII, Gerbundsiedlung 66, Frohnleiten c/o Dr. FANH (fmu), Stuhlfelden/Pinggau 2, and finally Prossgarn 99 since 28 July 1949. On 13 November 1951 he moved to Glösenbach 71 c/o Friederike MORITZ, his sister.
2. BRAITENBERG became a Polizeirat in 1928 and prior to 1930 was employed by the Burgenland Government in Eisenstadt. In 1930 he was appointed chief of the newly established Landespolizeikommissariat in Eisenstadt. In 1933 he was transferred to the Vienna Passant. A member of the NSDAP since December 1933 and an SS Obersturmbannführer since 1934, he was arrested in July 1934 under the suspicion of working for an underground Nazi organization. After a three months arrest he was dismissed from his position on 1 September 1934, but later received a pension effective as of 1 November 1936.
3. After the German occupation of Austria in March 1938 BRAITENBERG was rehabilitated and became Polizeidirektor of Salzburg. He held this position until the end of the war, although he was drafted into the army where he served with several units, last ranking Major. After the war he was kept for some time in British internment, first in Rimini, then at Camp Wolfsberg, Styria.
4. A charge was brought against BRAITENBERG accusing him of Nazi collaboration prior to the "Anschluss" and of having assisted the NSDAP in effecting Austria's annexation. Evidence was found in his book "Männer müssen kämpfen" (Men must fight), published in 1938

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or 1939 by the Werner Dietsch Verlag, Leipzig, wherein he described his illegal fight for the NSDAP in Austria. He was sentenced by the Peoples' Court Vienna (file number GZ.Vg ld Vr 6978/46 Hv 9/48) on 28 February 1948 to two years imprisonment and a loss of his property for high treason. Reasons for this sentence were: (a) his membership with NSDAP since December 1933, (b) his membership with SS, last ranking SS lieutenant colonel, since 1934, (c) his collaboration with the illegal NSDAP intelligence which he had supplied with information.

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